

AFTER PHILLY, WHAT'S NEXT?

I'm sure all of us feel excited, empowered and full of revolutionary electricity over the recent events in Seattle, DC, and Philly. If for no other reason, the FBI and local police are really acting like the movement is a true threat to the establishment, and shit—maybe they're right! But as we can all see from one event to the other, the police tactics are changing, and we need to change along with them if we hope to keep effective. So, I think we must analyze what has happened.

In Seattle, none of the authorities were ready for what happened, not only did thousands of truly peaceful protestors (read: fencewalkers) show up, but there was a new addition to the scene, "the violent anarchists" who, although their number was small, managed to lay waste to much of downtown Seattle, and turn the event upside down getting national and international media coverage and sparking debate at every office water cooler, where just minutes before they were talking about prime time TV sitcoms.

But in Philly and DC things have changed. It is obvious to anyone that Seattle was a wake up call to the FBI who instantly began the ol' COINTELPRO (counterintelligence program) and started monitoring and infiltrating the groups that are involved with the protests—after all those boring years after the radical sixties they had none of their own citizens to persecute and now, wow, we get to break all kinds of laws, and lie, and get away with it again! All in the name of defending the status quo! Woo hoo! It must be a great time to be piece of shit FBI motherfucker.



And we made it easy for them to watch us and fool us: we made no secret about when and where we planned on showing up, we even set up websites for them, we went to the same buildings day after to day to organize, and since our large groups were composed of members of other groups and individuals it was easy for them to infiltrate.

And the results are clear enough: Seattle, 0 arrests for the "violent" anarchists, and no arrests prior to actually participating in the action(s).

DC and Philly: there were many preemptive arrests, clearly the sign of police and FBI infiltration and surveillance. Also, because there was time to prepare, there were many plain clothes police on the streets, dressed very much like protesters, and as you were about to light that Mercedes on fire, the fellow revolutionary standing behind you who you thought had your back is really radioing the police four blocks away. Disaster.

And, now that we are seen as an enormous threat, the justice department has begun using every tactic at its disposal to keep us locked away in cages with the occasional beating, or in extreme fear of such a fate. False arrests, outright lies, denial of the very laws and privileges that they claim to support, such as no access to lawyers and ridiculous bail amounts.

Take this situation from Philly: In what turned out to be only an hour before the major protest actions in Philly were to begin, the police and FBI raided (with a full SWAT team as

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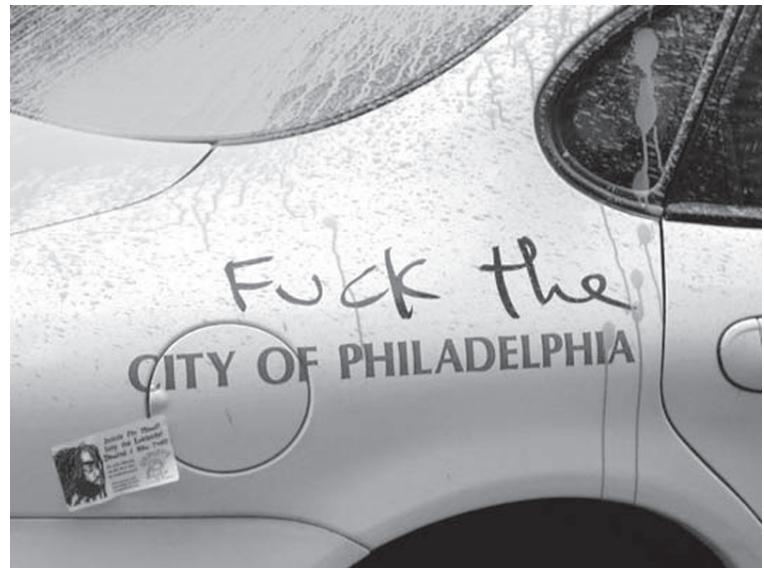
part of the action) the Puppet House which had been used as a meeting place for helping organize the protest. They had a warrant, issued in the time-honored FBI/Nazi tradition of an anonymous tip that C4 (a U.S. military plastic high-explosive) was on the premises. This of course was a lie, and in fact due to the intelligence of those working at the house, there were no weapons or drugs at all! The 70-odd people who were in the building were arrested (and most are still in jail a week later) on various bullshit misdemeanor charges and the police and FBI confiscated basically everything they had there. Now, keep in mind these people were in the building lawfully, not breaking any laws. The police have stated that they had things like chicken wire, plastic pipes, chains, etc. that they claimed were to be used in protests, and thus were labeled as IOCs (Instruments of Crime), and possession of such is, of course, against the law. It is clear that they had inside information about the group and what was to go on that day (most likely provided by infiltrators) and timed the raid just before the people in the house were have started a major protest. Hence we have what is basically a preemptive gestapo police raid on people who have broken no laws.

In case you haven't heard on the streets, the FBI announced it last week in Philly— THERE IS A FUCKING WAR ON.



So, how should we handle these new twists and turns? First, we must ask what the advantage is in protesting these large events because the disadvantages are many. It is assumed that these events are chosen because they are covered widely by the national mainstream media, and as such protests are sure to get attention. Outside of this I can see no reason to choose these events for direct action. In Seattle, this tactic worked wonderfully, we caught the whole nation off guard, and it showed— there were front page stories and it got tons of coverage on television. But in the Philly protests it has been a different story. Clearly, the networks had some serious meetings (with, I would guess, a fair amount of input from corporate sponsors, not to mention the corporations who own the networks and newspapers) and it seems obvious that a decision was made not to give coverage to the protests in the future. And that is what has happened, if you blinked, you would have missed all the coverage of this last week of police brutality and FBI raids.

So, the primary objective of the protests failed—this is not to say the protests were a failure at all; all those who participated feel empowered, and with a new, healthy resolve to take action. But now, 400 of us are in jail, eventually having



to give money to the system for our freedom, with our names, fingerprints, and photos in the FBI's files, on the relatively short list of people to watch out for—which is not a good thing. And some of the unfortunate might be in jail a lot longer, charged with felonies and bails as high as \$450,000.

I ask you this, is it easier to smash the windows of ten luxury cars and set them afire when there are no police around, or when there are thousands of them roaming around in groups of 12 concentrated in a small downtown area? Is it easier to assault an abusive police officer when its 5 on 5, or when its 5 on 500? We should not be willing to sacrifice our bodies and our freedom in ill-advised, poorly planned direct action that goes unnoticed by everyone who was not present.

If the FBI expects you to show up, then you better figure out how to not get caught, or better yet—burn down their office while they are looking for you protesting in another state.

The time has come to start acting like the serious threat to the status quo that we are being made out to be. When my time comes, I want to earn every dollar of my \$1,000,000 bail!

No more sheep intentionally carrying protest signs to the slaughter shouting now meaningless slogans. Work at night, with your friends, in small groups and set the world ablaze with passion and beauty!

-No Surrender Cell

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